

John's college with every sincere mark of respect and ceremony from the society, and an oration in his praise was pronounced over his grave by one of the fellows.

The last act of his life, his will, was consonant to the series of his actions, and breathes the same devotion, humility, charity, friendship, and candour, that had adorned each period. It shall be printed here, as it indicates the disposition of his MSS. the contents of which are specified in the new edition of the Biographia Britannica, and which show how useful a virtuous man may be even when cut off from society : but one particularity of his last testament is too memorable not to be singled from the rest of his legacies. One of them is to Dr. Conyers Middleton, whose principles in church and state were not only very different from those of Mr. Baker, but the doctor himself had lost the friendship of their common patron, the earl of Oxford, by being converted from the narrow and bigoted creed of those who adhered to the monkish notions of royal and ecclesiastical despotism, and who did not, like Mr. Baker, allow any toleration, nor forgive Middleton for seeing with his own eyes. Mr. Baker certainly intended no reproach to a sect, which he never quitted ; but the candour of his conduct is the severest censure on every party that is intolerant. They alone who abhor toleration deserve little. They are enemies to the freedom of religion, over which God alone can have any right of empire. Mr. Baker lived and died in charity with all mankind, and was perhaps the sole instance of a man who bequeathed his worldly goods to a society that had ejected him, and to the ministers of a church in which he had lost preferment. The following copy of his will attests these merits, and shall close what I have to say of so uncommon and amiable a character.

MR. BAKER'S

MR. BAKER'S WILL.

IN the name of God, Amen. I Thomas Baker, ejected fellow of St. John's college in Cambridge, do make my last will and testament as follows :

First, I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God (my gracious and good God) my faithful creator, and merciful redeemer, and in all my dangers and difficulties a most constant protector. Blessed for ever be his holy name !

As to the temporal goods it hath pleased the same good God to bestow on me (such as all men might be content with, and are, I bless God, neither poverty nor riches), I dispose of them in the following manner :

Whereas I have made a deed of gift (or sale for one guinea) of twenty-one volumes in folio of my own hand writing, to the right honourable Edward earl of Oxford, I confirm and ratify that gift by this my last will, and I beg his lordship's acceptance of them, being sensible they are of little use or value ; with two other volumes in folio, markt vol. 19, 20. since conveyed to him in like manner.

To my dear cousin George Baker, esq. of Crook, I leave The Life of Cardinal Wolsey, noted with my own hand, lord Clarendon's History with cuts and prints, and Winwood's Memorials in three volumes, in folio, with a five-pound jacobus piece of gold, as a mark of respect and affection, since he does not want it.

To my cousin Ferd. Baker, my silver salver, as promised.

To my worthy kinsman and friend, Mr. George Smith, I leave Godwin De præsulibus Angliæ, Waræus De præsulibus Hybernæ, both noted with my own hand.

To the reverend and learned Dr. Newcombe, master of St. John's college, I leave a ring of a guinea, with two tables of the masters of St. John's college,

in frames, with my founder's picture (Dr. Hugh Ashton) for himself or college; and to his excellent lady a ring of one guinea.

To my worthy friend Dr. Dickens, regius professor of law, I leave the first edition of Linwood's Provincial, in a large folio and black letter, with a ring of a guinea, and Dr. Corbet's picture, for himself, or the college.

To the worthy Mr. Burrough, fellow of Caius college, I leave bishop Cofin's picture for the college; and my worthy friend Dr. Knight, archbishop Parker's picture, together with another picture (near my bed) of Dr. Humphry Tyndal, dean of Ely (as supposed, and the date and year agree exactly).

All my other pictures and prints undisposed of, I leave to my worthy friend Dr. Grey*, LL. D. for the ornament of his house, with a ring of a guinea to him, Dr. Middleton, Dr. Williams, Mrs. Burton of Ellamore, and my dear niece and god-daughter Mrs. Margaret Shepperfon, and the rev. Mr. John Boswell, vicar of Taunton and prebendary of Wells.

To St. John's college library I leave all such books, printed or MSS. as I have, and are wanting there; excepting those I leave in trust to my worthy friend Dr. Middleton, for the University library: viz. archbishop Wake's State of the Church, noted and improved under his own hand; bishop Burnet's History of the Reformation, in three volumes, noted in my hand; and bishop Kennet's Register and Chronicle (for the memory of which three great prelates, my honoured friends, I must always have a due regard). To these I add Mr. Anstis's History of the Garter, in 2 vols. folio; Wood's Athenæ Oxonienses, and (Maunsel's Catalogue) both noted in my own hand, and Gunton's and Patrick's History of the Church of Peterborough, noted for bishop Kennet in my own hand; with 15 volumes more or less, in folio, in manuscript, all in my own hand; and 3 volumes in quarto, part in my own hand.

To the poor of the parish of Lanchester, where (at Crook) I was born; and to the poor of the parish of Longnewton, where I was ejected; to each parish I leave ten pounds, and to the college servants of St. John the Evan-

* Dr. Zacary Grey, either editor or author of Remarks upon Neale's History of the Puritans, and the last edition of Hudibras.

gelift ten pounds (among fuch as fhall be willing to accept a fhare), and out of that I leave five pounds to my bedmaker.

And whereas I have an hundred pounds in the Bank of England, under the name of my worthy friend and kinsman Dr. William Bedford, M. D. I leave him the profits of one year, and one year's dividend next after my deceafe.

As to my funeral, I am not fo folicitous: I defire nothing more than chriftian burial. Chrift be merciful to me a finner!

Laftly, I conftitute and appoint my dear nephew, Richard Burton, efquire, my fole executor; to whom I leave every thing undifpofed of, which I hope will be enough, to defray his trouble. May God Almighty blefs him, and give him all the engaging qualities of his father, all the virtues of his mother, and none of the fins or failings of his uncle; which (God knows) are great and many, and humbly (O my God) I call for mercy.

In testimony of this my will, I have hereunto fet my hand and feal this 15th day of October, 1739.

THOMAS BAKER.

Signed, fealed, delivered and declared by the aforefaid Thomas Baker, the teftator, as for his laft will and teftament, in the prefence of us,

WILLIAM CLAPHAM,
CHARLES RICHARDS.

And now, O my God, into thy hands I contentedly refign myfelf: whether it be to life or death, thy will be done. Long life I have not defired, and yet thou haft given it me. Give me, if it be thy good pleafure, an eafy and an happy death: or, if it fhall pleafe thee to vifit me feverely, as my fins have deferved, give me patience to bear thy correction, and let me always fay, even with my dying breath, Thy will be done. Amen, Amen.

ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT OF MY CONDUCT

RELATIVE TO THE

PLACES I hold under GOVERNMENT,

AND TOWARDS

MINISTERS.

ACCOUNT OF MY CONDUCT, &c.

IN my youth my father, sir Robert Walpole, then prime minister, gave me the two patent little places I still hold, of clerk of the estreats and comptroller of the pipe, which together produce about or near 300 l. per annum. When I was about eighteen or nineteen he gave me the place of inspector of the imports and exports in the custom-house, which I resigned in about a year, on his giving me the patent place of usher of the exchequer, then reckoned worth 900 l. a year. From that time I lived on my own income, and travelled at my own expence; nor did I during my father's life receive from him but 250 l. at different times; which I say not in derogation of his extreme tenderness and goodness to me, but to show that I was content with what he had given to me, and that from the age of twenty I was no charge to my family.

Before my father's quitting his post, he, at the instance of my eldest brother, lord Walpole, had altered the delivery of exchequer bills from ten pounds to an hundred pounds. My deputy, after that alteration made, observed, that, as usher of the exchequer, who furnishes the materials of exchequer bills, on which, by the table of rates in the exchequer, I had a stated profit, I should lose ten per cent. which he represented to my father; who, having altered them to oblige my brother, would not undo what he had done; but to repair the prejudice I had suffered, sir Robert, with his wonted equity and tenderness, determined to give me 2000 l. in lieu of what I lost, and would have added that legacy in a codicil to his will:—but this happening only two days before his death, when he was little capable of making that codicil, my brother lord Walpole engaged, at my father's desire, to pay me 400 l. a year; which not long after my brother redeemed for the intended 2000 l.

King George the first had graciously bestowed on my father the patent place of collector of the customs for his own life, and for the lives of his two elder sons Robert and Edward; but my father reserved in himself a right of disposing of the income of that place as he should please during the existence of the grant. Accordingly having afterwards obtained for his eldest son Robert the great place of auditor of the exchequer, and for his second son Edward that of clerk of the pells, he bequeathed, by an instrument under his hand, 1000 l. a year

a year to me out of the patent for the remainder of the term, and devised the remainder, about 800l. a year, to be divided between my brother Edward and me.

Having provided thus largely for my brother Edward and me, and leaving nothing but an estate in land of nominally 8000l. a year, and a debt of between 40 and 50,000l. he gave to my brother Edward and me only 5000l. a piece, of which I have never received but 1000l. and none of the interest. He also gave to my brother Edward a freehold-house in Pall-Mall, and to me the remainder of a house in Arlington-street, which went away from me in 1781, the term being expired.

Though my portion was much inferior to my brother's, still it was a noble fortune for a third son, and much beyond what I expected or deserved. Yet undoubtedly so excellent a parent would not have made so very slender a provision as 5000l. for a son he loved, if he had not had the opportunity and the legal right of giving me a much ampler fortune of what he had obtained by his long faithful and very essential services to the kings George the first and second.

I presume boldly to say that my father had a legal right of making the provision for me he did in the places I hold. Patent places for life have existed from time immemorial, by law, and under all changes of government. He who holds an ancient patent place enjoys it as much by law as any gentleman holds his estate, and by more ancient tenure than most gentlemen hold theirs, and from the same fountain, only of ancients date, than many of the nobility and gentry hold their estates, who possess them only by grants from the crown, as I possess my places, which were not wrung from the church, and in violation of the intention of the donors, as a vast number of estates were; nor can I think myself as a patent placeman a more useless or a less legal engrosser of part of the wealth of the nation than deans and prebendaries. While there are distinctions of ranks, and unequal divisions of property, not acquired by personal merit, but by birth or favour, some will be more fortunate than others. The poor are most entitled to complain; but an archdeacon or a country gentleman has very little grace in complaining that any other unprofitable class is indulged by the laws in the enjoyment of more than an equal share of property, with the meanest labourer or lowest mechanic.

Having said this with the confidence that does not misbecome a legal possessor,

feffor, I am far from pretending to any other plea, much less to any merit in myself. A tender parent lavished riches on me greatly beyond my desert, of which I am so little conscious in myself, that, if the distresses of the public require a revocation of gifts bestowed by the crown in its splendour, I know no man who can plead fewer services to his country, or less merit in himself than I can. In one light only I can wipe off an aspersions in which patent placemen have been confounded with other placemen. No man who holds a place for life, is dependent on the crown farther than his duty or his gratitude binds him. I, perhaps, by the nature of my office, which I shall explain hereafter, am more dependent than almost any patent-holder—and yet I may presume to say, that having suffered by that dependence because I would not violate my principles and conscience, I cannot be deemed a servile placeman*.

Endowed so bountifully by a fond parent as I have allowed myself to be, it would be ridiculous to say that I have been content; yet not having unfolded some peculiarities in my situation, I may venture to say that I have shown that I could be content with a considerable diminution. I have never made any merit of that moderation: but when I am held out to the public as one whom the public are called upon to reduce to an humbler lot, which I am ready to admit, if it be but allowed that all my guilt consists in holding what somebody else would have held if I did not, it may be permitted to me to prove, that while I assumed no claim of merit, I have declined every offered opportunity of enlarging or securing my fortune, because I would not be bound to serve any minister contrary to my principles, and because I chose to have no obligations but to one to whom I owed every thing, and to whom it was my duty, and whom it would be my pride to obey, if he were on earth to exact that obedience!

I have said that my father left me much the larger share in the income of the patent place in the custom-house. I have also mentioned that the patent was granted to my father during the lives of him and his two elder sons: on his death there remained the lives of my two brothers, and that my share would consequently cease entirely if I survived them. The health of my eldest brother declining, and my brother Edward being eleven years older than me, two or three of my best friends urged me to ask to have my life added to the patent. I refused—but own I was at last over-persuaded to make application

* My conduct while I sat in parliament is most probably forgotten; but no man can recollect that it looked like servility to ministers. It is needless to obviate what never was objected to me.

to Mr. Pelham—how unwillingly will appear by my behaviour on that occasion, which did not last two minutes. I went to him and made my request. He replied civilly, “he could not ask the king to add my life to the patent, but if I could get my brother Edward to let my life stand in lieu of his, he would endeavour to serve me.”—I answered quickly, “Sir, I will never ask my brother to stand in a precarious light instead of me;” and hurrying out of his house, returned to two of my friends who waited for me, and said to them, “I have done what you desired me to do, but, thank God! I have been refused.”—This was in the year 1751, and was the first and last favour I ever asked of any minister for myself.

Had I been an ambitious or an interested man, I certainly have had eminent opportunities of indulging either passion. At the beginning of the present reign an overture presented itself to me, which a more selfish man would have thought flattering to his views. How I embraced that occasion may be seen by Letter VIII. in page 378.

I may be allowed to say, that I have waved more substantial and real offers. Twice I have been offered to have my share of the patent, which I now hold only during my brother's life, conferred on me for my own. Both times I positively refused to accept that offer. Having rejected a certainty of 1400*l.* per ann. for my own life, instead of holding it during the life of one eleven years older, I hope I shall not be thought a very interested man.

I will now explain the nature of my office of usher of the exchequer, stated by the commissioners of accounts to render to me clear four thousand two hundred pounds a year, and which I said was given to me as producing but nine hundred a year, and which, on an additional tax being laid on places, I gave in as producing 1800*l.* a year, and which, had it been adverted to, would make me seem to have given in a very fraudulent estimate; but I am so conscious of my innocence and integrity in that respect, that I chose—perhaps out of vanity—to recollect that circumstance myself, as it certainly reflects no dishonour on me. When I was called on to give in the value of my place, I took my book of accounts and receipts for the last twelve years, and gave in the medium of those twelve years, which was 1800*l.* a year. As mine has been an increasing place by three wars, and other circumstances, and as for the first years of my holding that place it was much less, the medium sum would have been less than 1800*l.* a year, if I had taken my receipts farther back than twelve years; so that I plainly exaggerated, instead of diminishing
what

what I had received annually from my first nomination to the office. If I have enjoyed too much, as I confess I have, at least I have not sought to increase my income by any indirect or dirty methods.

The duty of my office is to shut the gates of the exchequer, and to furnish paper, pens, ink, wax, sand, tape, pen-knives, scissars, parchment, and a great variety of other articles to the exchequer, treasury, and their officers, and to pay the bills of the workmen and tradesmen who serve those offices. Many of the articles specified are stated in a very ancient table of rates in the exchequer (I think of the time of Edward III. so that my office is, if a grievance, no very novel one), and on those, large profits are allowed to the usher; whence my profit arises, and whence, if it is largely augmented of late years, a candid examiner will observe, that that increase proceeds from the prodigious additional consumption of paper, pens, ink, wax, which the excessive increase of business at the treasury must occasion; and therefore should a much less quantity of those implements be employed, my profits would decrease in proportion. When therefore I am charged as receiver of 4200*l.* a year, it should be remembered, that though I was so in the year 1780 (though I shall show that even that is an arbitrary statement, and not calculated on any medium), yet I cannot equitably be reckoned communibus annis to receive so large a sum. I have shown that 1800*l.* a year was the medium on twelve years, and those not of my least receipts.

It is very difficult to state my case, and not seem to defend it. But I am telling the truth, and not pleading for favour—at least, my object is to obtain a favourable opinion of my character. I am far more indifferent about my fortune. But surely any impartial man will reflect how grievous it must be to a disinterested mind to be held up to the public as a blood-sucker, under the invidious name of a placeman—to be one of those pointed at by county associations, as grievances that call for speedy correction and removal; in short, to be confounded with contractors and other leeches that have grown out of the profusions and abuses of the time, though my office has existed from the oldest times, and has existed under the best government. Public distress demands œconomy and correction. Be they exercised; I desire no exception. But being guilty of no servile, of no indirect means in obtaining, augmenting, or retaining my office, I am ready to resign that office; but I will prove (and defy all mankind to detect me in a single falsehood) that I have held my place with honour, and have nothing to palliate or conceal in my execution of it.

The place is held under many disagreeable circumstances. I advance money to the tradesmen and workmen; I contract to pay the principal merchant with whom I deal for paper, though I should never be repaid. There is no specific time appointed for my being paid; it depends on the good pleasure of the first lord of the treasury; and yet, though a mere tradesman in that respect, I believe no man will accuse me of having ever paid court or even attendance on a first lord of the treasury. I was *once*, forty years ago, at the late duke of Newcastle's levee, the only minister's levee at which I ever was present except my own father's. Yet with very few have I had cause not to be content in my own particular. If I have been proud, they have been just. Yet some of my predecessors have met with harder fates. Mr. Naylor, my immediate predecessor but one, lost twenty thousand pounds by the death of queen Anne.

Risks by prudent men are calculated as drawbacks; but where advantage preponderates, even the terrors of calculation are surmounted. More prudent men than I am would have combated those risks, by making the most of their advantages. I have ever disdained that pitiful arithmetic. All the goods I furnish have always been purchased by me at the highest prices—and never came a complaint from the treasury that was not instantly remedied by my orders. In more than forty years I have never received an important complaint, nor given occasion to one.

Having said that there is no certain time settled for my being paid, and as I have sometimes had large arrears due, and consequently as one year frequently runs into another, and thence I may in one year receive four or five thousand pounds, because in the preceding I did not receive half so much, the commissioners of accounts having examined my deputy but on a single year, were just in their report of what I received *that year*; but, had they gone farther back, would certainly not have given in 4200*l.* as my receipt *communibus annis*. This unintended misrepresentation I bore in silence, it having been

* From lord North I always received regular justice and civility, though I never paid any court to him, nor disguised my disinclination to his measures. This compliment, which now cannot be misinterpreted, is due to him, and is an unsuspicious evidence of his good humour and averseness from all malignity. When I am

grateful to the living for civilities, I scorn to recollect the rancour of the dead.

* My deputy received my positive orders to give to the commissioners the most particular detail of my profits, and to offer them in my name my account-books of all my receipts, which they declined accepting, and which would have shown them

been my stedfast purpose not to interfere with the public examination of places, nor take the smallest step to mitigate my own fate, which I submit implicitly to the discretion of the legislature. What I hold, I hold by law: if the law deprives me, I have too much reverence for the laws of my country to complain. No man ever heard me utter a syllable in my own behalf. My nearest friends know that I have required them not to interpose to save me. This dread of seeming to make interest to save my place preponderated with me to appear ungrateful for a time, lest it should look like a selfish compliment: I have never yet thanked Mr. Burke for the overflowing pleasure he gave my heart, when, on moving his bill, he paid that just compliment to the virtues of my honest excellent father. This acknowledgment I hope he will accept as a proof, that, though silent, I was not insensible to the obligation. Just praise out of his mouth is an epitaph of sterling value, and, standing in his printed speech on that occasion, will enjoy an immortality which happens to few epitaphs.

This apology for my own conduct will I hope be accepted from a man who has nothing to boast but his disinterestedness, and is grievously wounded by standing in a light of one by whom the public suffers. Were my place worth double 4000l. I could resign it cheerfully at the demand of my country; but having never flattered the ministers I disapproved, nor profited to the value of a shilling by my dearest friends when in power, which they have been twice of late years (and having so much reason to be proud of their friendship, why should I not name two such virtuous upright men as the duke of Richmond and general Conway?), I cannot bear to appear in the predicament of one enriched to the detriment of the country. This stab has been given to my peace, and the loss of my place will not enlarge the wound, nor will the retention of the place heal it. It is this most scrupulous state of facts that alone can rehabilitate me in the eyes of the public, if any thing can;—and though nothing would have drawn a vain detail from me, unprovoked, it cannot be thought arrogant to endeavour to wipe off reproach, nor impertinent to aim at negative merit with the public, instead of subscribing to undeserved and invidious obloquy.

March 30, 1782.

HORACE WALPOLE.

them a very different state of the medium of my place. Had they accepted those books, I intended to send them word, that they were welcome to examine my receipts; but that I hoped, as

they were gentlemen, they would not look at the foolish manner in which I had flung away most of what I had received.

LETTERS

LETTERS TO AND FROM MINISTERS.

LETTER I.

TO THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

MY LORD,

SOME time ago Mr. West, by your grace's order, treated with me for the sale of my place in the custom-house, which bringing in to me at the lowest thirteen hundred per ann. with the contingency of 100 per ann. more on the death of Mrs. Leneve, besides other advantages which I shall mention presently, was thought worth, by those who understand, and whom I consulted on, these sort of things, from fourteen to fifteen thousand pounds. The affair, as I understood, went off by my brother, who has the reversion after me, expecting much more for his small share and great reversion, than was thought reasonable.

This being a brief state of the case, I have now thought of a plan, by which I believe I could accommodate your grace in a much easier manner, and which I shall here propose to be accepted or rejected as your grace shall think proper.

The post of master of the mint, held at present by Mr. Chetwynd, is, I think, reckoned at 1200*l*. per ann. If it is less, even 1000*l*. I will exchange mine for it on the following terms. If your grace will give me the reversion of the master of the mint after Mr. Chetwynd, for my life, I will immediately on his death resign my share and profits of the place in the custom-house to whomever your grace pleases. That is, I will give up fourteen hundred a year, precarious, for 1200 or 1000 certain; on which your grace will please to make these observations: If my brother will not part with his contingency, whoever shall have my share will still be a great gainer. For

instance, the master of the mint must be given to somebody—if to me, I give in lieu my profits (I believe, greater than those), besides what I hinted at above; and in our place there are seven or eight places in mine and my brother's gift alternately, of which two at least are *very* good—I shall give up my nominations with my place. If Mr. Chetwynd outlives me, as my profits would go to another, not a farthing of money is thrown away, and when Mr. Chetwynd shall drop, his place will be in your grace's disposal, as it is at present. If my brother dies before me and Mr. Chetwynd, the whole profit of the custom-house place will be in your grace's disposal, and I shall be to wait for Mr. Chetwynd's reversion, or to die myself; neither of which will be of any consequence but to myself. In short, my lord, instead of paying me a large sum of money as was before proposed, your grace will only have the trouble of asking the king to consent to my exchange of my place, that your grace may have the very fair pretence of asking at the same time for one or two lives in the custom-house place, which on this agreement with me your grace would ensure to your family (and would be a great provision for a younger son of my lord Lincoln); and as I should be ready to resign mine (by much the largest share), I should suppose his majesty would not refuse your grace a suit so advantageous to you, and which then you would have so reasonable foundation for asking. And I own I have one pleasure in reflecting how, different from most reversions, this would be rather a service than anyways offensive to Mr. Chetwynd.

There is one thing more I ought to mention. I don't know the exact value of Mr. Chetwynd's place; it may be more than I have stated it, and I have no thoughts of making any clandestine advantage. If it should exceed 13 or 1400*l.* per ann. I by no means desire to be a gainer in income, and shall readily agree to pay to whomever your grace pleases as much as it shall exceed my present place; as on the other hand, if it falls short, I am content to be the sufferer.

I have treated this exchange as very advantageous to your grace, and it certainly would be exceedingly so; yet I do not mean either to be artful for my own profit, or to pretend to make any court by it. It would be below me not to deal frankly with your grace: I have neither ambition nor avarice to satisfy; I have as much from the government as I desire, or have any pretensions to; I want no more; but I do wish to be secure for my life, and to

keep nearly what I have. If I can keep it honourably, as I should, by this exchange, I should be glad: if I cannot, I shall be content with much less, for I would do nothing unworthy of me, to obtain any advantage. Your grace sent to me in a very handsome manner before; I hope my compliance then, and the much better proposal for your grace that I make now, mark my attention and desire of obliging your grace, in which, without any disguise, I mean, my lord, at once to pay a civility to you, and to secure myself in a way which leaves me nothing to be ashamed of, and gives your grace some reason to be satisfied with my plain dealing—in a word, a way as creditable to you as it will be little expensive.

I am, my lord,

Your grace's, &c.

HOR. WALPOLE.

Nov. 12, 1758.

LETTER II.

TO THE RT. HON. HENRY BILSON LEGGE.

SIR,

UPON hearing a motion yesterday in the house of commons for an account of the produce of the tax on places, I sent for my deputy and asked what I had paid. He told me that nothing had been demanded; that he had been ready to pay whatever should be required, as I had given him positive orders, and to answer to the extent of the value of my place whenever it should be enquired into. You will excuse my troubling you with this now, since on one hand I don't know on what method the treasury have fixed for taxing the places in the exchequer; and on the other, if I did, I would not send my assessment *just now*, lest it should look as if I had had any design of evading the tax, and only paid for fear of the enquiry. I must appeal to you, sir, how very groundless such a suspicion would be. I can scarce expect that any thing I say should make an impression on any body, and yet I believe you may recollect, that when such a tax was first talked of, I told you how far I was from wishing it should not be imposed; that I thought persons who had a good deal from the government ought to pay towards carrying it on, and that we in employments could afford it better than many on whom the weight

weight of taxes fell very heavily. I must bear my brother witness that he entirely agreed with me in these sentiments.

When this tax was to be voted, I again spoke to you upon it, sir, and said, Though I was very ready to pay myself, I hoped it would not be extended to little offices, where salaries were small, and the business great: and I mentioned to you a difficulty that might, by inadvertence, be laid upon me, if I was rated according to my bills, which, including all that I pay to the king's workmen and tradesmen, would, if valued in that manner, impose a greater duty upon me than my whole income would amount to. This you told me could never be the case; and I only mention it now, to show that I no more conceal what I said *for* myself, than I sought to avoid any incumbrance to which I ought to be subject. You concluded the conversation with saying, that no method of taxing places was yet settled, and that it would be a very difficult matter to adjust.

Do excuse my repeating all this detail, and be so good as to keep this letter, if it should be necessary for my justification. There is but one thing in the world that I have any pretence to be proud of, and that is, my disinterestedness. It would hurt me beyond measure to have it for one moment called in question. My carelessness about money had made me quite forget the tax since last year, or I should have again applied to you for directions—but I do protest I had rather give up the place than have one man in England think that I meant to avoid paying my share.

I am, sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

HOR. WALPOLE.

Arlington-street,
Feb. 3, 1759.

LETTER III.

To MR. WALPOLE.

MR. PITT presents his compliments to Mr. Walpole, and is extremely sorry to have been abroad when Mr. Walpole has twice done him the honour
to

to call. He is going out of town this morning, and will be very glad to receive any commands of Mr. Walpole next week, at the time he shall please to name.

St. James's Square,
Nov. 17, 1759.

LETTER IV.

TO THE RT. HON. WILLIAM PITT.

SIR,

ON my coming to town I did myself the honour of waiting on you and lady Hesther Pitt, and though I think myself extremely distinguished by your obliging note, I should be sorry for having given you the trouble of writing it, if it did not *lend* me a very pardonable opportunity of saying what I much wished to express, but thought myself too private a person, and of too little consequence to take the liberty to say. In short, sir, I was eager to congratulate you on the lustre you have thrown on this country; I wished to thank you for the security you have fixed to me of enjoying the happiness I do enjoy. You have placed England in a situation in which it never saw itself—a task the more difficult, as you had not to improve, but recover. In a trifling book written two or three years ago, I said (speaking of the name in the world the most venerable to me), “Sixteen unfortunate and inglorious years since his removal have already written his eulogium.” It is but justice to you, sir, to add, that that period ended when your administration began. Sir, don’t take this for flattery; there is nothing in your power to give that I would accept—nay, there is nothing I could envy, but what I believe you would scarce offer me, your glory. This may sound very vain and insolent, but consider, sir, what a monarch is a man who wants nothing; consider how he looks down on one who is only the most illustrious man in Britain.—But, sir, freedoms apart, insignificant as I am, probably it must be some satisfaction to a great mind like yours, to receive incense when you are sure there is no flattery blended with it: and what must any Englishman be that could give you a minute’s satisfaction, and would hesitate!

Adieu, sir—I am unambitious, I am disinterested—but I am vain. You have

¹ Royal and Noble Authors, account of sir Robert Walpole.

by

by your notice, uncanvassed, unexpected, and at the period when you certainly could have the least temptation to stoop down to me, flattered me in the most agreeable manner. If there could arrive the moment, when you could be nobody and I anybody, you cannot imagine how grateful I would be. In the mean time permit me to be, as I have been ever since I had the honour of knowing you,

SIR,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Nov. 19, 1759.

HOR. WALPOLE.

LETTER V.

TO THE EARL OF BUTE.

MY LORD,

HAVING heard that his majesty was curious about his pictures, I collected some catalogues of the royal collections which I had a little share in publishing a few years ago. I dare not presume to offer them to his majesty myself; but I take the liberty of sending them to your lordship, that, if you should think they may contribute to his majesty's information or amusement, they may come to his hand more properly from your lordship than they could do from me. I have added some notes that illustrate a few particulars.

Having dabbled a good deal in this kind of things, if there is any point in which I could be of use to your lordship for his majesty's satisfaction, I should be very ready and happy to employ my little knowledge or pains. And permit me to say, my lord, your lordship cannot command any body who will execute your orders more cheerfully or more disinterestedly, or that will trouble you less with any solicitations: an explanation which even esteem and sincerity are forced to make to one in your lordship's situation. The mere love of the arts, and the joy of seeing on the throne a prince of taste, are my only inducements for offering my slender services. I know myself too well to think I can ever be of any use but as a virtuoso and antiquarian; a character I should formerly have called very insignificant; though now my pride, since his majesty vouch-
safes

safes to patronize the arts, and your lordship has the honour to countenance genius, a rank of which at most I can be but an admirer.

I have the honour to be, &c.

HOR. WALPOLE.

LETTER VI.

TO MR. WALPOLE.

SIR,

I HAVE presented the book sent me to his majesty, and mentioned the very polite and respectful manner you expressed yourself in with regard to him. The catalogue came very opportunely, for the king had just given orders to the duke of Devonshire to make out exact lists of all the pictures in the royal palaces. His majesty's great fondness for the arts will, I hope, soon have a striking effect in this country. I with gratitude acknowledge the assistance they have been of to me during many years of absolute solitude: other matters much less agreeable now demand my whole attention; depend upon it, therefore, I shall presume on your generosity, and use the freedom you give me, without remorse or hesitation; fully satisfied, that whatever you shall please to undertake, will be executed in a much superior manner to any attempts of mine, even in the days of liberty and quiet. I am sorry before I finish this scrawl to be forced to enter my protest against an expression in yours. Men of your character and ability are by no means confined to any one study: quick parts and superior talents become useful in every occupation they are applied to; with these, according to marshal Saxe, little things amaze, and great ones do not surprise.

I am, sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

BUTE.

Dec. 17, 1769.

LETTER VII.

TO MR. WALPOLE.

LORD BUTE presents his compliments to Mr. Walpole, and returns him a thousand thanks for the very agreeable present he has made him. In looking over it, lord Bute observes Mr. Walpole has mixed several curious remarks on the customs, &c. of the times he treats of; a thing much wanted, and that has never yet been executed, except in parts by Peck, &c. Such a general work would be not only very agreeable, but instructive:—the French have attempted it; the Russians are about it; and lord Bute has been informed, Mr. Walpole is well furnished with materials for such a noble work.

Saturday.

LETTER VIII.

TO THE EARL OF BUTE.

MY LORD,

I AM sensible how little time your lordship can have to throw away on reading idle letters or letters of compliment; yet as it would be too great want of respect to your lordship not to make some sort of reply to the note you have done me the honour to send me, I thought I could couch what I have to say in fewer words by writing, than in troubling you with a visit, which might come unseasonably, and a letter you may read at any moment when you are most idle. I have already, my lord, detained you too long by sending you a book, which I could not flatter myself you would turn over in such a season of business: by the manner in which you have considered it, you have shown me that your very minutes of amusement you try to turn to the advantage of your country. It was this pleasing prospect of patronage to the arts that tempted me to offer you my pebble towards the new structure. I am flattered that you have taken notice of the only ambition I have: I should be more flattered if I could contribute to the smallest of your lordship's designs for illustrating Britain.

The hint your lordship is so good as to give me for a work like Montfaucon's

con's Monuments de la Monarchie Françoise, has long been a subject that I have wished to see executed, nor in point of materials do I think it would be a very difficult one. The chief impediment was the expence, too great for a private fortune. The extravagant prices extorted by English artists is a discouragement to all public undertakings. Drawings from paintings, tombs, &c. would be very dear. To have them engraved as they ought to be, would exceed the compass of a much ampler income than mine, which, though equal to my largest wish, cannot measure itself with the rapacity of our performers.

But, my lord, if his majesty was pleased to command such a work, on so laudable an idea as your lordship's, nobody would be more ready than myself to give his assistance. I own, I think I could be of use in it, in collecting or pointing out materials, and I would readily take any trouble in aiding, supervising, or directing such a plan. Pardon me, my lord, if I offer no more; I mean, that I do not undertake the part of composition. I have already trespassed too much upon the indulgence of the public; I wish not to disgust them with hearing of me, and reading me. It is time for me to have done; and when I shall have completed, as I almost have, the history of the Arts on which I am now engaged, I did not purpose to tempt again the patience of mankind. But the case is very different with regard to my trouble. My whole fortune is from the bounty of the crown, and from the public; it would ill become me to spare any pains for the king's glory, or for the honour and satisfaction of my country; and give me leave to add, my lord, it would be an ungrateful return for the distinction with which your lordship has condescended to honour me, if I withheld such trifling aid as mine, when it might in the least tend to adorn your lordship's administration. From me, my lord, permit me to say, these are not words of course, or of compliment, this is not the language of flattery; your lordship knows I have no views, perhaps knows that, insignificant as it is, my praise is never detached from my esteem: and when you have raised, as I trust you will, real monuments of glory, the most contemptible characters in the inscription dedicated by your country, may not be the testimony of,

My lord,

Your lordship's most obedient humble servant,

HOR. WALPOLE.

Feb. 15, 1762.

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LETTER IX.

TO THE EARL OF BUTE.

MY LORD,

AS it is now near five months since your lordship signed my orders, I should be glad if your lordship would please to direct the payment of the money.

I am, my lord,

Your lordship's obedient humble servant,

Arlington-street,
March 14, 1763.

HOR. WALPOLE.

LETTER X.

TO THE EARL OF BUTE.

MY LORD,

I AM very sensible of your lordship's obliging civility in immediately ordering my money on my application. It was by no means from want of respect to your lordship that that application was not made sooner; but for above twenty years that I have held the office, it has been the constant practice to write to the first secretary to desire his letter, when the lords have signed the orders; and the payment has seldom been delayed above a fortnight after.

If your lordship should approve of it, should much rather, as my bills become due, apply to your lordship, than to any body else, unless your lordship please to give any other directions.

I am, my lord,

Your lordship's most obedient humble servant,

March 16, 1763.

HOR. WALPOLE.

LETTER XI.

TO MR. BEDFORD.

DEAR SIR,

INQUIRING of your son to-day why my new clerk was not more instructed, he said, there were circumstances which some persons of the treasury would

would not like to have communicated; which much surprisng me, your son said Mr. Rowe had had some cloth, which he chose to have entered as some other article. This notice did and could not but greatly astonish me, who have always told you in the most positive manner that I never would connive at the smallest collusion, nor upon any account receive the least profit that was not strictly and justly my due. You know I have repeatedly declared to you that I would not suffer the benefits of my office to be raised by any indirect practices on my part; and you must remember how strongly I rejected old Palmer's pretensions, and was firm that I would lose the perquisites due on what he was entitled to take at the office, rather than enter into any bargain with him.

When I talked to you last at Brixton-caufeway, you desired me not to let any body into the secrets of my office. I replied with dissatisfaction that *I would have no secrets in my office*, nor would receive a shilling from it that I was not willing all the world should know—and I appeal to yourself if this has not been my constant rule.

I am sensible that you have done nothing but from zeal for me and regard to my interest—but my honour is infinitely more dear to me, and I most peremptorily charge you not to give into the least collusion with any body of the treasury, in order either to serve me by increasing my profits, or by gaining them to my interest. I will go shares with no man living in any dirt. I am aware that this may make those people my enemies, and may turn them to prejudice me by postponing my accounts, by delaying my payments, or, as your son said, by preventing their taking many articles from the office on which I should have a just profit. But I scorn such traffic, and had rather lose the office itself, than blush to hold it by such means. In short, I prefer being wronged to doing wrong.

In the present case, Mr. Rowe is welcome to the cloth; but then I will pay for it myself, and do absolutely forbid you to charge it in any shape to the government. Should he ever make such another application to you, or should any other person, you must say that you dare not yield to it, and that I have positively forbidden it.

Mr. Harris must be instructed thoroughly in all the duties of his place, but

I do not desire he should know this transaction, for fear he should ever be tempted to imitate it. I am fully persuaded of your good intentions to me in it, and that your prudence and fear of making me an enemy induced you to comply. But I entreat you to remember, that as I have no worldly wisdom myself, I cannot let any man living use any for me contrary to right, justice, and the duty I owe to the public as a servant of the government. I have held the place now above thirty years through many storms, and sometimes under much oppression, but my conduct in it has been untainted; and as I have disdained to secure it by voting with ministers against my conscience, you may depend upon it, I will not traffic for the favour of clerks by winking at their corruption.

I am, dear sir,

Yours most sincerely,

Arlington-street,
Feb. 27, 1771.

HOR. WALPOLE.

LETTER XII.

TO MR. WALPOLE.

SIR,

YOU may be assured of my perfect obedience to the commands I received yesterday.

I am happy that you think I have served you with zeal—gratitude required and obliged me to it—affection is too familiar a word from me; and I do most solemnly assure you that my poor unfortunate son has not been less zealous, for he never thought your accounts high enough; and yet you may be quite easy and satisfied that nothing has been done that could bring the least reflection upon your honour. Our desires have been to oblige every body, and we have done it honestly; and if I knowing a gentleman to have an allowed right to a particular perquisite of office, which he did not always want in that shape, have gratified him with another thing in lieu of it *of equal value*, I did not perceive the injury to government, or think you would have any objection to it: but if you will not suffer such indulgence to be continued, and will be pleased to inform me so by my son, I will show the strictest regard to your commands.

There

There has never been any thing charged in your accounts without a voucher of its delivery, which would always justify you ; and the person who ordered it was to justify himself if called upon.

I am, fir,

Your most obliged and obedient humble servant,

Brixton-caufeway,
March 1, 1771.

GROSVENOR BEDFORD.

LETTER XIII.

To MR. WALPOLE.

SIR,

I AM directed by lord North to send you a copy of the representation which the commissioners of the customs have made to the board of treasury relative to the difficulty which hath arose in the management of the office, in which you are so much interested, by the death of Mr. Mann. His lordship orders me to say that he is desirous of arranging this business in any way that is practicable and most agreeable to you, and to appoint (if it can be) Mr. Suckling, or who you choose, as temporary collector.

I shall be at my house at Sion-hill tomorrow morning, and shall be glad to receive your answer to that place ; or, if it is agreeable to you, I will wait on you at Strawberry-hill to receive your commands. I have the honour to be with great respect,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

Treasury-chambers,
December 23, 1775.

JOHN ROBINSON.

To the Right Hon. the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury.

Custom-house, London, December 22, 1775.

Memorial of the commissioners for managing and causing to be levied and collected his majesty's customs, &c.

SHEWETH,

THAT his late majesty king George I. by his letters patent bearing date the 28th of June 1716, did grant unto Robert Hare, esq. and Robert Mann, gentleman,

gentleman, the office of collector inwards of the customs in the port of London, and the members and creeks thereof, for and during the natural lives of Robert Walpole, jun. esq. and Edward Walpole, esq. sons of the right honourable Robert Walpole, esq. and during the life of the longest liver of them, with full powers to execute the said office by themselves, or their sufficient deputy or deputies.

That Mr. Suckling, the present deputy to the collector inwards, acquainted us, that Edward Louisa Mann, esq. the last person admitted to that office, is now dead, and that the same devolves to sir Horace Mann, bart. his majesty's minister at Florence, who not being in England cannot immediately attend to take the oath of office.

We beg leave to represent the same to your lordships; and as the case is unprecedented, we are at a loss to know how and by whom the collection is to be carried on during this interval, and in what manner and in whose name the money so collected is to be paid into the hands of the receiver general, in order to its being paid into the exchequer.

This being a matter of very great importance, as well as peculiar nicety and difficulty in point of law and prudence, we think it necessary to give your lordships this early intimation of it, and pray to receive your lordships' directions herein.

H. BANKES.
W. MUSGRAVE.
Cn. MORRIS.
Js. JEFFERYS.

L E T T E R X I V .

To JOHN ROBINSON, Esq.

S I R,

I HAVE but this minute received the honour of your most obliging letter, and do not lose a minute in answering it.

It is impossible to be more sensible than I am of lord North's goodness, and I must beg you, sir, to express my gratitude to his lordship, as I shall have the

the honour of doing in person. His lordship's condescension to me is as flattering as unmerited; and the only way I can at all pretend to deserve it is by doing what I ought; that is, as far as the case regards myself, prefer the public service to myself, and submit myself in the care of that interest to his lordship's wisdom: at the same time having so just a sense of the duty of gratitude, that I think myself equally obliged by a kind offer, whether accepted or declined.

The collectorship of the customs is an office of such importance, that my family or I, who have received such favours from the government, ought to be the first to take care that the public suffers no detriment in an office in which we are concerned. I, it is true, have a great, though a temporary, interest in that office, but it is my brother, sir Edward, in whom it is vested for his life; and therefore I flatter myself that both lord North and you, sir, will consider my answer as only regarding myself; for though I am persuaded that my brother has the public service full as much at heart as I have, I must not take upon me to answer for him about an office that virtually and ultimately rests in him. For myself, I am persuaded that I cannot serve the public more essentially than by waving my own interest entirely, and referring the whole disposition of the present difficulty to lord North's discretion, and submitting myself entirely to what he shall direct. The situation of the office by the absence of sir Horace Mann is certainly extremely momentous, and ought not to remain precarious; therefore, I beg very respectfully and gratefully too, that I may not be considered for an instant, but that his lordship will give orders for the security of the office in whatever manner he thinks fit, till sir Horace can come over and accept it; and whatever his lordship shall determine will be cheerfully acquiesced in by,

SIR,

His lordship's and your most grateful

And most obedient humble servant,

Arlington-street,
December 25, 1775.

HORACE WALPOLE.

POSTSCRIPT.

SIR,

I was so convinced that my brother sir Edward prefers the service of the public to his own interest, at least as much as I do, that I deferred sending

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my immediate answer till I had communicated it to my brother; and he authorizes me to say that he submits himself entirely to lord North's arbitration for the safety of the office till sir Horace Mann can be admitted to it according to the intention of the patent.

LETTER XV.

TO JOHN ROBINSON, Esq.

SIR,

MY deputy, Mr. Bedford, has acquainted me that you are desirous of knowing the prices I pay for the several articles with which, as usher of the exchequer, I supply the treasury; and he told me that you added, that lord North has a mind to make new regulations that may be æconomic for the public. I have accordingly, sir, ordered Mr. Bedford to give you the most exact information on every particular. He told me too that lord North would be so just as, I do not doubt, to make compensations to any body that should suffer by such alterations. Give me leave, sir, to say that it is not on that ground that I now trouble you. On the contrary, it is to beg you will be so good as to acquaint lord North, that he may not only command any information from me on that subject, as far as I myself am concerned, and which it is my duty to give, but that I shall cheerfully acquiesce in whatever new regulations he shall be pleased to make for the benefit of the public. No rights or interest of mine shall stand in the way of so good a purpose; and when I use the word *rights*, it is not to support, but to wave them for any national benefit. I have received too great benefits and too long from the crown and the public, not to owe any facility in my power, as far as so inconsiderable a person can do it, to ease the burthens of both, and I shall with great willingness accept whatever shall be thought proper for me on any new plan of public æconomy. I should think myself of too little consequence to say this, were it not that the example of the most private man may be of use on such an occasion. I am, sir, with great regard,

Your obedient humble servant,

Arlington-street,
June 9, 1777.

HORACE WALPOLE.

LETTER XVI.

To the Hon. HORACE WALPOLE, Usher of the Receipt of the Exchequer.

SIR,

I AM commanded by the lords commissioners of his majesty's treasury to desire you will forthwith cause to be made out and transmitted to me, for their lordships' information, an account of the ordinary allowance of stationary delivered into this office in the year 1780; together with the prices of each article, and the amount of the whole; an account of the extraordinary allowance of stationary, and all other necessities whatsoever, delivered to the lords, secretaries, clerks, or any other person in this office, within the same time; together with the prices of each article, and the amount of the whole.

I am, sir,

Your most humble servant,

GEORGE ROSE.

Treasury-chambers,
August 10, 1782.

LETTER XVII.

To MR. WALPOLE.

SIR,

I WAS very much concerned to understand yesterday, from Mr. Bedford, that you had considered my letter to him as leading towards an enquiry into the conduct of your office; it was merely to know what the consumption of stationary at the treasury has been, which I could not learn with correctness there. This I begged Mr. Bedford would assure you of in the strongest terms, to prevent a possibility of your continuing under a mistake with respect to my intention in writing to him; and when I mentioned the misapprehension to lord Shelburne, he expressed the utmost anxiety to have it set right, and desired I would write to you myself for that purpose, with assurances that it would give him very great pain to have occasioned the smallest uneasiness to you, which I hope you will admit as an apology for my having given you this trouble. I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient and very humble servant,

GEORGE ROSE.

Duke-street, Westminster,
August 16, 1782.

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LETTER XVIII.

TO GEORGE ROSE, Esq.

THOUGH I am very sorry, sir, that you have had so much trouble on my account, I cannot entirely lament it, both as it has procured me a most obliging letter from you, and as it gives me an opportunity of explaining my expressions by Mr. Bedford, which, if I had had the pleasure of being better known to you, would not have surpris'd you.

As a very subordinate officer of the exchequer, I have always known it was my duty to receive the commands of my superiors, the lords of the treasury, with respect and obedience, and to give them any information that they please to demand of me. I owe every thing I have to the crown and the public, and certainly by no merit of my own; the servants of the crown and the public are entitled to any lights that can fall to my province to furnish; and so far from having any secrets in my office, I would not keep it an hour, by any mystery, subterfuge, or disguise. I once received an enquiry from Mr. Robinson something parallel, sir, to yours, and, as Mr. Bedford can tell you, immediately complied with his request.

When the commissioners of accounts sent for Mr. Bedford, I gave him the most positive orders to lay before them the most minute details of my office, and answer their every question circumstantially.

Forgive my troubling you, sir, with these particulars about myself: they are only meant to shew you that so far from entertaining any jealousy about my office, I think myself accountable for every part of it, and should blush if I were not ready and willing to give it: perhaps that delicacy made me express myself a little more eagerly than the case deserved.

With regard to lord Shelburne's or your own desire of information, I beg both will command me or Mr. Bedford on any occasion without ceremony. I feel extremely obliged to you, sir, for your readiness in explaining your orders; and I must entreat you to present my most respectful thanks to lord Shelburne for his lordship's condescension and attention, to which my insignificance had no pretensions, but which must increase my gratitude. I would
take

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take the liberty of thanking his lordship myself, but he cannot have time to read complimentary letters. I fear, sir, I have taken up but too much of yours, for which I beg your pardon, and have the honour to be with great regard,

SIR,

Your most obedient and most obliged humble servant,

Strawberry-hill,
August 18, 1782.

HORACE WALPOLE.

LETTER XIX.

TO WILLIAM SUCKLING, Esq.

DEAR SIR,

THE more I reflect on what you said to me yesterday, the stronger is my opinion that the most faithful and exact account should be given of all the fees and profits belonging to the office. There can be no right to any thing that it is necessary to conceal from those who have authority to ask an account: and as this is my opinion, I must beg you will observe it as far as I have any title to interfere, and to keep it as a record of my sentiments, if they do not prevail in other offices. I do not pretend to judge for others, but I am very solicitous to preserve my own conduct uniform with what it has always been. I have no notion of holding a public office and not being ready to give an account of it at a minute's warning.

I am, dear sir,

Yours most sincerely,

Berkeley-square,
January 31, 1783.

HOR. WALPOLE.

LETTER XX.

TO MR. WALPOLE.

DEAR SIR,

BE pleased to accept my most humble thanks for your speedy compliance with my request in applying to the commander in chief for purchasing a commission; the young man I wish to introduce into the service is my son, aged twenty, about five feet ten inches high.

Since I had the honour of waiting upon you, have received a letter from
Mr.

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Mr. Adair's office of a cornetcy to be sold in lord Southampton's regiment of dragoons, which I am in treaty for. If any difficulty should arise in the business, your very kind offer of speaking again to the commander in chief shall be embraced by me.

It gives me the fullest satisfaction to find you more and more strengthened in your opinion as to the propriety of rendering the accounts called for. Sir Edward entirely agreed therein, as he also did in the new arrangement of the warehouse officers. I have the honour to inform you that the duke of Manchester sees the necessity of a compliance, and has ordered his deputies to make suitable returns to the accounts called for.

I am with great respect, dear sir,

Your most obliged and humble servant,

WILLIAM SUCKLING.

February 1, 1783.

LETTER XXL

TO THE EARL OF SHELBURNE.

MY LORD,

NOTHING but the dread of ostentation would have prevented me long ago from taking the step I am now going to take, and which obliges me to give your lordship this trouble, which I flatter myself you will excuse in pity to the feelings of a man who has long suffered in silence under the painful sensation of being reckoned in any manner a burthen to the public.

From the moment that the necessities of this country made reformation of expence called for, I not only approved of such a design, but was most ready to be an object of it. So far from any wish of being exempted, I did every thing that became me as a benefited servant of the public to lay open my situation to those delegated to enquire into the state of offices. I ordered my deputy to give the most minute account of my advantages, and to offer to the commissioners every light that it was possible for me to give about my own office. I can boldly say, that every board of treasury that has been employed since reformation was started, must bear me witness that publicly or privately

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they never heard my name to any application for favour or mitigation of my lot. I could go farther, if the repugnance I have to saying any thing of myself did not enjoin me silence, as it has during a long period of very irksome reflections on my standing in the light of one chargeable to the public, without any merit on my part.

But, my lord, when I read in the papers on coming to town to-day that my office of usher of the exchequer has not only been alleged in the house of commons as an expensive one, but as a bar to the correction of great waste, I can no longer be silent. I must sacrifice my aversion for parade to my duty; and must beg leave to say to your lordship, that I entreat that my patent may be no obstacle to any necessary reformation. I am ready to consent to any thing that parliament shall think proper to do. The legislature without my consent may do what it pleases, but it will have my perfect and cheerful acquiescence in whatever it shall please to ordain about me and my office. I am ready to surrender my patent, and shall be content with whatever shall be thought enough for me by a new regulation. I wish my age of sixty-six and my infirmities did not reduce this tender to a very immeritorious one, for to give up what I have very little time to enjoy is no very heroic effort.

But though I am little solicitous about myself, I do feel for my deputy and clerk, who have long faithfully executed all the trouble of my office, and have wives and families unprovided for, but during my life. I should hope to have them considered; and though I have no merit to plead myself, I flatter myself that this testimonial to their integrity will have a little weight.

The great confidence I have in your lordship's goodness and honour makes me take the liberty of addressing this letter to you, for two reasons; one to authorize your lordship to take what step you please with regard to my office, and the other, that you would not produce this letter unless necessary to my vindication. I had still rather bear the vexation of what has been said on my place in public, than seem to affect any vainglorious self-denial. It shall suffice me to have deposited my justification in so honourable a bosom as your lordship's, unless I should be called on to clear myself more publicly.

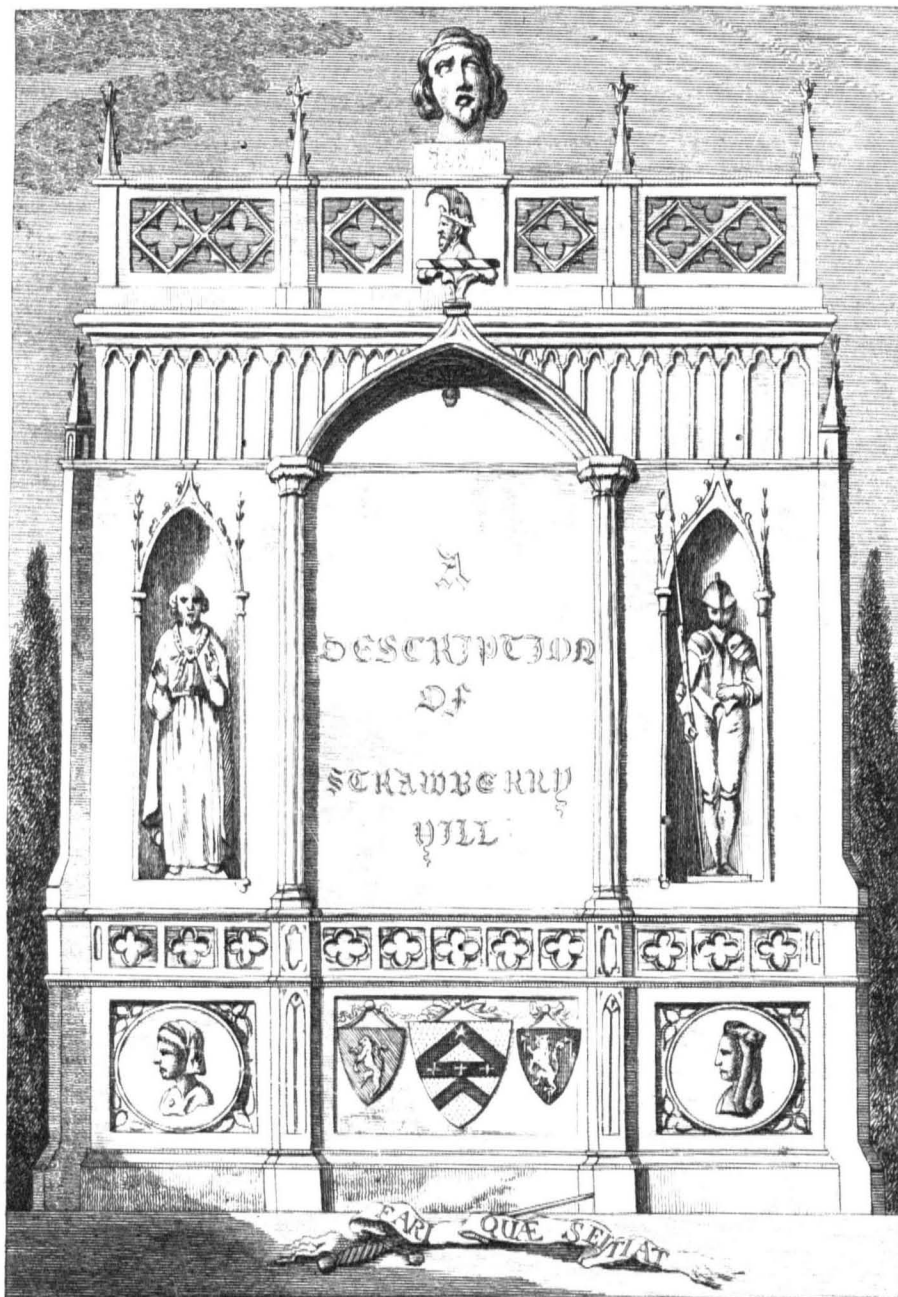
I have the honour to be with the greatest respect, my lord,

Your lordship's most obedient humble servant,

June 19, 1783.

HOR. WALPOLE.

- LORD JOHN CAVENDISH called on me on 22d; said, if I resigned, my place must go to Martin. He said he should, when he had time, bring in a bill for taking away exchequer places, but should give possessors the same salaries as stated by the commissioners of accounts. I said I could not take mine at that rate; they had stated mine at 4100l. a year; which I thought hard: they had taken a very high year when I had received more than a yearly payment (indeed three quarters); that I had not complained, because I would not seem to lower my place; yet, as I had thought myself ill-treated by its being overcharged, I could not in conscience not tell him the truth; and that so far from desiring 4000 l. a year, I should be content with half: that I had much rather have a provision made for my deputy and clerk for their lives.
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FRONTISPIECE.

A
DESCRIPTION
OF THE
VILLA

OF
Mr. HORACE WALPOLE,

AT
Strawberry-Hill near Twickenham, Middlesex.

WITH AN INVENTORY OF THE
FURNITURE, PICTURES, CURIOSITIES, &c.

P R E F A C E.

IT will look, I fear, a little like arrogance in a private man to give a printed description of his villa and collection, in which almost every thing is diminutive. It is not, however, intended for public sale, and originally was meant only to assist those who should visit the place. A farther view succeeded; that of exhibiting specimens of Gothic architecture, as collected from standards in cathedrals and chapel-tombs, and showing how they may be applied to chimney-pieces, ceilings, windows, balustrades, loggias, &c. The general disuse of Gothic architecture, and the decay and alterations so frequently made in churches, give prints a chance of being the sole preservatives of that style.

Catalogues raisonnés of collections are very frequent in France and Holland; and it is no high degree of vanity to assume for an existing collection an illustration that is allowed to many a temporary auction—an existing collection—even that phrase is void of vanity. Having lived, unhappily, to see the noblest school of painting that this kingdom beheld, transported almost out of the sight of Europe, it would be strange fascination, nay, a total insensibility to the pride of family, and to the moral reflections that wounded pride commonly feels, to expect that a paper fabric and an assemblage of curious trifles, made by an insignificant man, should last or be treated with more veneration and respect than the trophies of a palace deposited in it by one of the best and wisest ministers that this country has enjoyed.

Far from such visions of self-love, the following account of pictures and rarities is given with a view to their future dispersion. The several purchasers will find a history of their purchases; nor do virtuosos dislike to refer to such a catalogue for an authentic certificate of their curiosities. The following collection was made out of the spoils of many renowned cabinets; as Dr. Meade's, lady Elizabeth Germaine's, lord Oxford's, the duchess of Portland's, and of about forty more of celebrity. Such well-attested descent is the genealogy of the objects of virtu—not so noble as those of the peerage, but on a par with those of race-horses. In all three, especially the pedigrees of peers and rarities, the line is often continued by many insignificant names.

The most considerable part of the following catalogue consists of miniatures, enamels, and portraits of remarkable persons. The collection of miniatures and enamels is, I believe, the largest and finest in any country. His Majesty has some very fine, the duke of Portland more; in no other is to be seen, in any good preservation, any number of the works of Isaac and Peter Oliver. The large pieces by the latter, in the royal collection, faded long ago by being exposed to the sun and air. Monsr. Henery at Paris, and others, have many fine pieces of Petitot. In the following list are some most capital works of that master, and of his only rival Zincke. Raphael's missal is an unique work in miniature of that monarch of painting; and the book of psalms by Julio Clovio the finest specimen extant of illumination. The drawings and bas-reliefs in wax, by lady Diana Beauclerc, are as invaluable as rare.

To an English antiquary must be dear so many historic pictures of our ancient monarchs and royal family; no fewer than four family-pieces of Henry V, VI, VII, and VIII. of queen Mary Tudor and Charles Brandon; of the duchess of Suffolk and her second husband; and that curious and well-painted picture of Charles II. and his gardener. Nor will so many

works of Holbein be less precious to him, especially Zuccherò's drawings from his Triumphs of Riches and Poverty.

To virtuosos of more classic taste, the small busts of Jupiter Serapis in basalt, and of Caligula in bronze, and the silver bell of Benvenuto Cellini, will display the art of ancient and modern sculpture—how high it was carried by Greek statuary, appears in the eagle.

To those who have still more taste than consists in mere sight, the catalogue itself will convey satisfaction, by containing a copy of madame du Deffand's letter in the name of madame de Sevigné; not written in imitation of that model of letter-writers, but composed of more delicacy of thought and more elegance of expression than perhaps, madame de Sevigné herself could have attained. The two ladies ought not to be compared—one was all natural ease and tenderness—the other charms by the graces of the most polished style, which, however, are less beautiful than the graces of the wit they clothe.

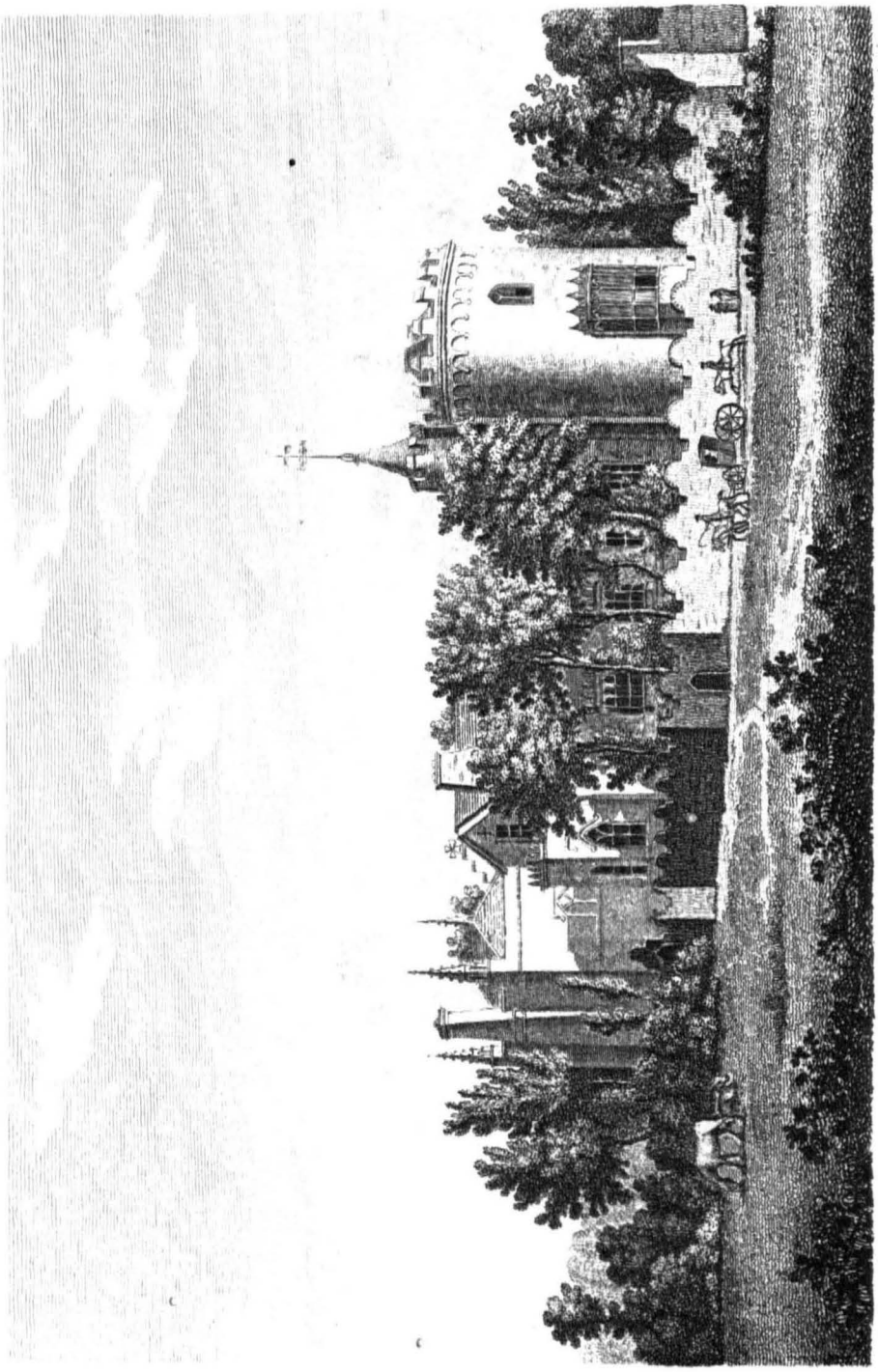
Upon the whole, some transient pleasure may even hereafter arise to the peruser of this catalogue. To others it may afford another kind of satisfaction, that of criticism. In a house affecting not only obsolete architecture, but pretending to an observance of the *costume* even in the furniture, the mixture of modern portraits, and French porcelaine, and Greek and Roman sculpture, may seem heterogeneous. In truth, I did not mean to make my house so Gothic as to exclude convenience, and modern refinements in luxury. The designs of the inside and outside are strictly ancient, but the decorations are modern*. Would our ancestors, before the reformation of architecture, not have deposited in their gloomy castles antique statues

* And the mixture may be denominated, in some words of Pope,

A Gothic Vatican of Greece and Rome.

and fine pictures, beautiful vases and ornamental china, if they had possessed them?—But I do not mean to defend by argument a small capricious house. It was built to please my own taste, and in some degree to realize my own visions. I have specified what it contains : could I describe the gay but tranquil scene where it stands, and add the beauty of the landscape to the romantic cast of the mansion, it would raise more pleasing sensations than a dry list of curiosities can excite : at least the prospect would recall the good humour of those who might be disposed to condemn the fantastic fabric, and to think it a very proper habitation of, as it was the scene that inspired, the author of the Castle of Otranto.

Vol. II. P. 399.



W. J. G. 1840

W. J. G. 1840

North End of Strawberry Hill.

A
D E S C R I P T I O N
O F T H E
V I L L A
O F
M R . H O R A C E W A L P O L E ,
A T S T R A W B E R R Y - H I L L N E A R T W I C K E N H A M .

WHERE the Gothic castle now stands, was originally a small tenement *, built in 1698, and let as a lodging-house : Cibber once took it, and wrote one of his plays here, *The Refusal, or the Lady's Philosophy*. After him, Talbot bishop of Durham had it for eight years † : then, Henry Bridges marquis of Carnarvon, son of James duke of Chandos, and since duke himself. It was next hired by Mrs. Chenevix ‡, the noted toy-woman, who, on the death of her husband, let it to lord John Philip Sackville, second son of Lionel duke of Dorset : he kept it about two years, and then Mr. Walpole took the remainder of Mrs. Chenevix's lease in May 1747, and the next year bought it by act of parliament, it being the property of three minors of the name of Mortimer. Along with this house and some

* It was built by the earl of Bradford's coachman, and was called by the common people, *Chopp'd-Straw-Hall*, they supposing, that by feeding his lord's horses with chopped straw, he had saved money enough to build his house; but the piece of ground on which it stands is called in all the old leases, *Strawberry-Hill-Plot*, from

whence it takes its name.

† The bishop kept a large table here; which is scarce conceivable, as he had no kitchen but that little place which is now the china-room.

‡ Pere Courayer lodged here with her for some time.

other tenements was another small one*, then occupied by Richard Franklin, printer of *The Craftsman*, who had been taken up for printing that paper during the administration of sir Robert Walpole†. When Mr. Walpole bought Strawberry-hill, there were but five acres belonging to the house: the rest have been purchased since. The castle now existing was not entirely built from the ground, but formed at different times, by alterations of and additions to the old small house. The library, and refectory or great parlour, were entirely new built in 1753; the gallery, round tower, great cloister, and cabinet, in 1760 and 1761; the great north bed-chamber in 1770; and the Beauclerc tower with the hexagon closet in 1776.

The embattled wall to the road is taken from a print of Aston-house in Warwickshire, in Dugdale's history of that county.

Entering by the great north gate, the first object that presents itself is a small oratory enclosed with iron rails; in front, an altar, on which stands a faint in bronze; open niches, and stone basons for holy water; designed by John Chute, esq. of the Vine in Hampshire. On the right hand is a small garden called the abbot's garden, parted off by an open screen, taken from the tomb of Roger Niger bishop of London in old St. Paul's. Passing on the left, by a small cloister‡, is the entrance to the house, the narrow front of which was designed by Richard Bentley, only son of Dr. Bentley, the learned master of Trinity-college, Cambridge. Over the door are three shields of Walpole, Shorter and Robsart.

* It has since been pulled down, and a cottage built on the same spot. The garden too has been newly laid out by Mr. Walpole since it came into his hands by Franklin's death.

† It is remarkable, that the printer of *The Craftsman* was Mr. Walpole's tenant; and that the writer of *The Craftsman*, W. Pulteney earl of Bath, wrote a ballad in praise of Strawberry-hill.

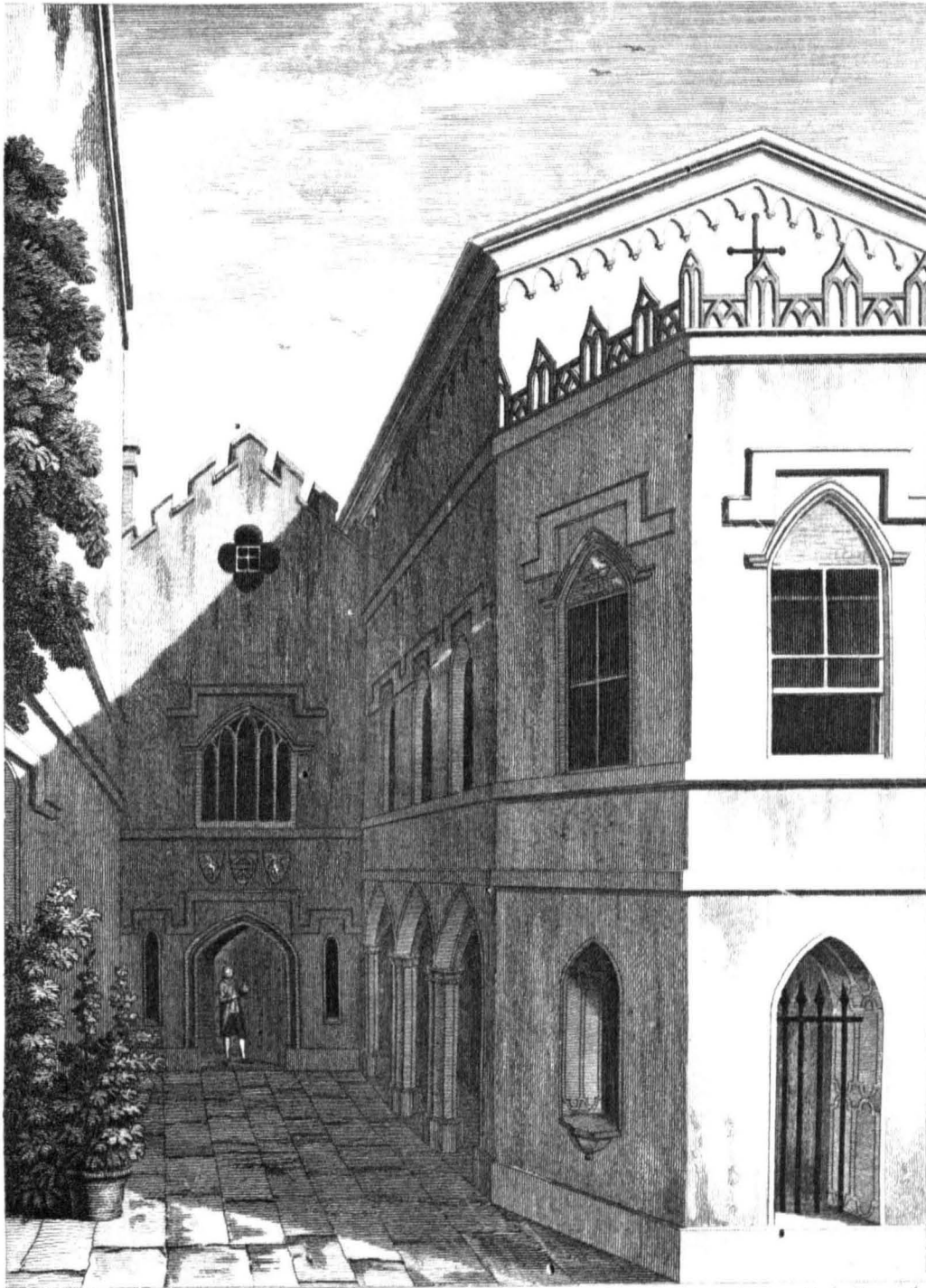
‡ In this cloister are two blue and white Delft flower-pots; and a bas-relief head in marble, inscribed *Dia Helianora*: it is the portrait of the princess Eleanora d'Este, with whom Tasso was in love, and who was the cause of his misfortunes: it was sent to Mr. Walpole from Italy by sir William Hamilton, minister at Naples. On

a pedestal stands the large blue and white china tub in which Mr. Walpole's cat was drowned; on a label of the pedestal is written the first stanza of Mr. Gray's beautiful ode on that occasion:

*'Twas on this lofty vase's side,
Where China's gayest art has dy'd
The azure flowers that blow;
Demurest of the tabby kind,
The pensive Selima reclin'd,
Gaz'd on the lake below.*

In the winding cloisters on the right hand are some ancient bas-reliefs; and a brass plate with the effigies of Ralph Walpole bishop of Norwich and Ely, engraven by Müntz (a Swiss painter who lived some time with Mr. Walpole), and a Chinese lanthorn with scraped oyster-shells.

You



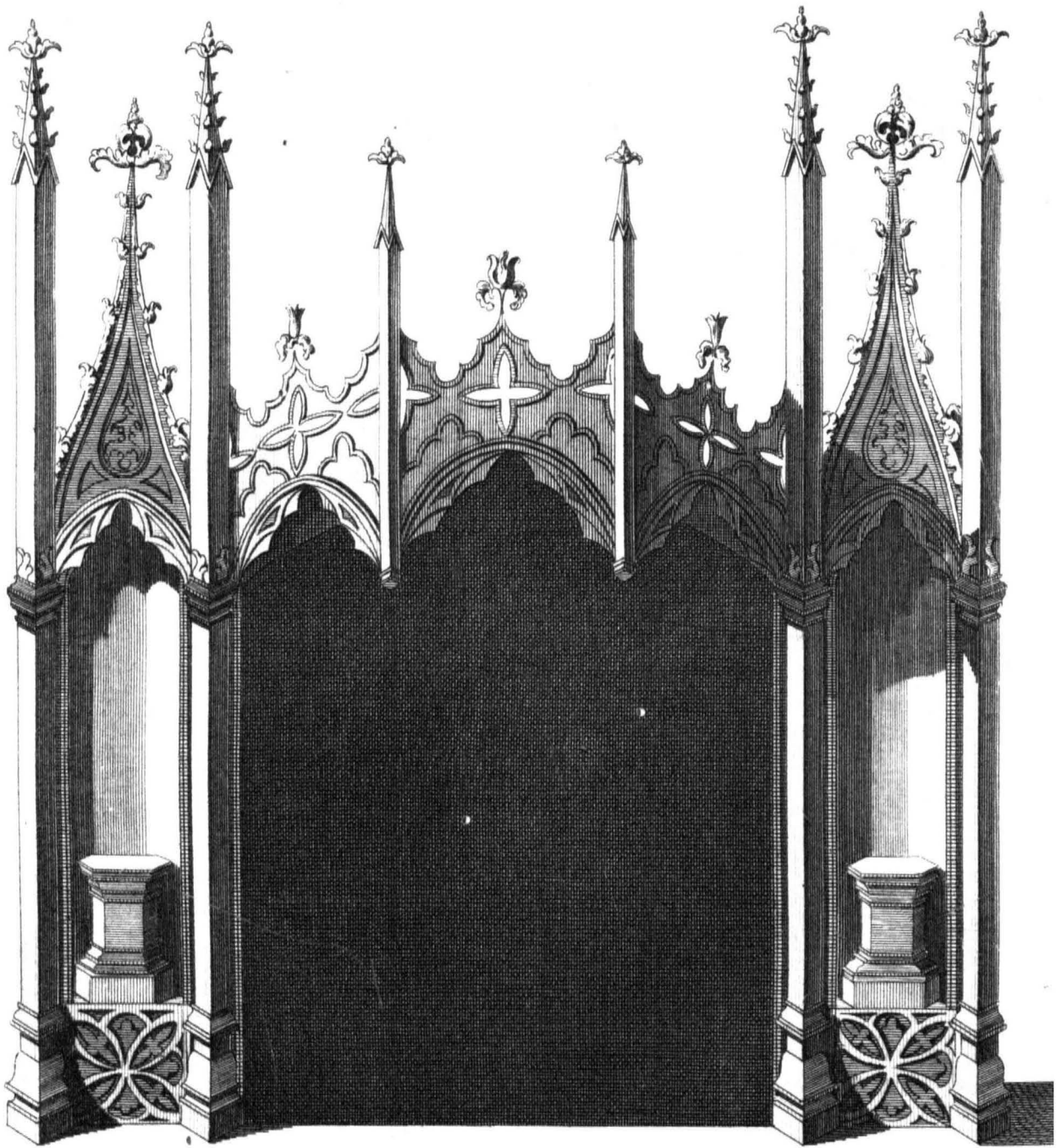
C. Edwards delin.

J. Norton sculp.

ENTRANCE of STRAWBERRY HILL.



View of the Prior's Garden
AT STRAWBERRYHILL.



J. H. M. sc.

CHIMNEY IN THE GREAT PARLOUR.

You first enter a small gloomy hall paved with hexagon tiles, and lighted by two narrow windows of painted glass, representing St. John and St. Francis. This hall is united with the staircase, and both are hung with gothic paper, painted by one Tudor, from the screen of prince Arthur's tomb in the cathedral of Worcester. The balustrade was designed by Mr. Bentley; at every corner is an antelope (one of lord Orford's supporters) holding a shield. In the well of the staircase, by a cord of black and yellow, hangs a gothic lanthorn of tin japanned, designed by Mr. Bentley, and filled with painted glass; the door of it has an old pane with the arms of Vere earl of Oxford.

Turning to the left, through a small passage, over the entrance of which is an ancient carving in wood of the arms of queen Elizabeth, 1567, and in it a window of painted glass, you enter

THE REFECTORY, OR GREAT PARLOUR.

IT is thirty feet long, twenty wide, and twelve high; hung with paper in imitation of stucco. The chimney-piece was designed by Mr. Bentley; upon it stands a fine Etruscan vase, between two bottles of black and gold porcelaine.

Over the chimney, a conversation, by Reynolds, small life: Richard second lord Edgcumbe is drawing at a table in the library at Strawberry-hill; George James Williams is looking over him; George Augustus Selwyn stands on the other side with a book in his hand. Lord Edgcumbe, Mr. Selwyn and Mr. Williams used to be with Mr. Walpole at Christmas and Easter at Strawberry-hill.

On one side of this picture, a head of sir Horace Mann, resident at Florence; painted there by Astley, and highly coloured: he is drest in red velvet.

Opposite to it, his brother Galfridus Mann, in brown; by the same.

Over against the chimney, a bureau of black japan; on it a clock, supported by a bronze figure of a woman reading; beneath, an Etruscan vase, between two white old china beakers.

The chairs are black, of a gothic pattern, designed by Mr. Bentley and Mr. Walpole. The table of Sicilian jasper on a black frame designed by Mr. Bentley: upon it, a large punch-bowl and pail of Seve china; two beakers of old grey porcelaine, veined; two ice-pails of Chelsea china. Under it, two Etruscan vases, and a jar of Roman fayence. Over the table hangs a hunting-horn, finely enamelled on one side in colours, on the other in chiaro scuro, with the history of saint Hubert. By the table an old white china bottle, ornamented with or moulu, on a mahogany pedestal, for water, bought at Mr. Bateman's sale, 1775.

On each side of the window, the top of which has some fine painted glafs, and one ridiculous * Dutch piece representing the triumph of Fame, who is accompanied by Cato, Cicero, and other great men, in square caps and gowns of masters of arts, are card-tables of rose-wood, carved in China; and over each a looking-glafs in a gothic frame of black and gold, designed by Mr. Walpole. Inclosed in the tops of the frames, with their arms and coronets, are the portraits of George Walpole third earl of Orford, and of George Cholmondeley viscount Malpas, eldest son of George earl of Cholmondeley and of Mary second daughter of sir Robert Walpole. The former is copied by Eckardt, from a miniature by Liotard, in the cabinet above stairs: the latter is original by Eckardt. On one side of the window,

An old woman letting a boy light his candle, by Schalken; very fine.

Opposite, Two boys, a dog and a goat, by Bassan; from Mr. Jennings's collection.

At the end of the room, over against the window, sir Robert Walpole, knight of the garter, afterwards earl of Orford. On one side of him,

Catherine, eldest daughter of John Shorter, of Bybrook in Kent, first wife of sir Robert Walpole; in white: a copy from sir Godfrey Kneller, by Jarvis. On the other side,

Maria Skerret (in the dress of a shepherdes), second wife of sir Robert; by Jarvis.

* There is another Dutch emblematic pane, on which is Charles II. riding uppermost on the wheel of Fortune, and Rebellion thrown down. Another pane is painted with a cobbler whistling

to a bird in a cage, by Pearson, scholar of Price. This window was altered and enlarged in 1774.

On one side of the chimney, Robert Walpole second earl of Orford, auditor of the exchequer, master of the fox-hounds, and knight of the bath, eldest son of sir Robert Walpole by his first wife; in red velvet, with a globe by him: by Richardson.

Margaret, only child of Samuel Rolle of Heynton in Devonshire, first married to Robert second earl of Orford, and mother of George the third earl; and secondly to Sewallis Shirley, a younger son of earl Ferrers; in a white riding-habit with a stick: by Jarvis.

On the other side, sir Edward Walpole, second son of sir Robert Walpole and Catherine Shorter, knight of the bath, and clerk of the pells; in the robes of the bath: by Slaughter.

Horace Walpole, third son of sir Robert and Catherine Shorter; in blue velvet: by Richardson.

Over against the chimney, a large piece of the ladies Laura, Maria, and Horatia Waldegrave, daughters of James second earl of Waldegrave and Maria Walpole, afterwards duchess of Gloucester; by sir Joshua Reynolds, 1781.

Lady Anne Osborn*, daughter of the first duke of Leeds; by sir Godfrey Kneller. She was first married to Thomas Coke of Holkam, by whom she was grandmother of Thomas Coke lord Lovel and earl of Leicester; and secondly to Horatio Walpole, second son of sir Edward Walpole, and uncle of sir Robert Walpole. On the other side,

Dorothy, sister of sir Robert, and second wife of Charles lord viscount Townshend, knight of the garter and secretary of state; in a Turkish habit: by Jarvis.

Over one of the doors, Mary lady Malpas, second daughter of sir Robert Walpole and Catherine Shorter; married to George lord Malpas, afterwards earl of Cholmondeley: by Eckardt, after Jarvis. Over the other door,

Lady Maria Walpole, only child of sir Robert Walpole and Maria Sker-

* This is a whole length picture, but is turned in.

ret, and wife of Charles Churchill, only son of general Churchill; in a veil, with a music-book before her: by Eckardt.

A fire-screen of admirable needle-work, representing a vase of flowers, by lady Caroline Campbell, daughter of John duke of Argyll, countess of Ailesbury; married secondly to general Henry Seymour Conway, only brother of Francis first earl of Hertford of that line, knight of the garter, ambassador in France, and lord chamberlain: it is mounted in mahogany, carved, and inlaid with ivory.

A Turkey carpet, and a fire-screen embroidered with knotting.

A two-leaved screen, containing part of a map of Surry and Middlesex. It is a piece of the first tapestry woven in England, and came from Weston in Warwickshire, the seat of the Sheldons, who introduced the manufacture. The complete suite of hangings were purchased by Mr. Walpole, and presented by him to the earl of Harcourt. This specimen had never been hung up.

IN THE WAITING-ROOM.

A HEAD in artificial stone of John Dryden the poet, great uncle of Catherine Shorter lady Walpole: a large altar candlestick of metal, inlaid with gothic inscriptions, very ancient: and a pair of ancient bellows.

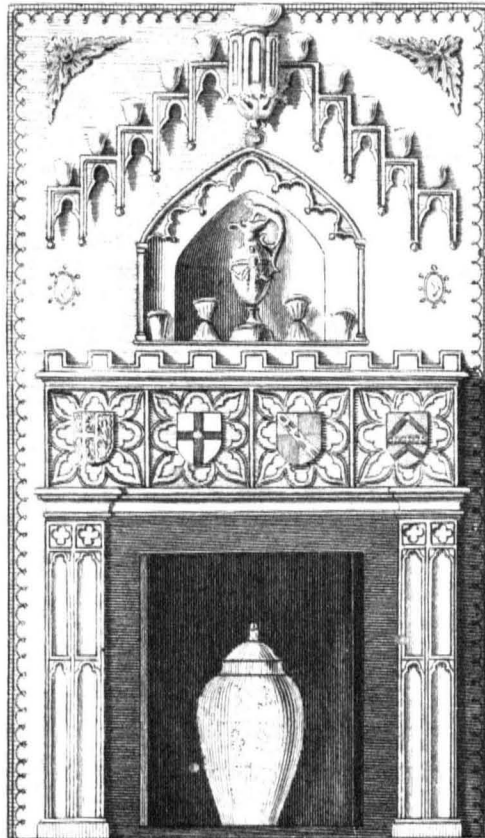
Inside of King's college chapel, by Canaletti.

A curious emblematic picture of a man standing, small whole length, with a bust of Charles II. seemingly before his restoration, for a cupid is weighing the broken arms of England (as a commonwealth) against crowns and sceptres, (but the sceptre is a French one, and therefore probably painted abroad) fragments of architecture, and the man holds a plan like St. Paul's; thence it has been supposed a portrait of sir Christopher Wren, but does not resemble him, nor are the arms his.

A print of lady Mary Coke.

Bust of Colley Cibber, poet-laureat, in a cap, when old, coloured from the life, and extremely like. He gave it to Mrs. Clive, the celebrated actress; and her brother Mr. Raftor gave it, after her death, to Mr. Walpole.

Tradescant



CHIMNEY IN THE CHINA ROOM.

Tradescant junior, with a skull covered with moss for the powder of sympathy.

A small whole length of Dryden, in oil, by Maubert.

THE CHINA-ROOM.

PAINTED glass in the windows, and crests of Shorter and Gestinhorpe: the ceiling painted with convolvuluses on poles, by Müntz, from a ceiling in the little Borgheze villa at Fiescati: the sides, white Dutch tiles, with borders of blue and white.

In the floor some very ancient tiles with arms, from the cathedral at Gloucester. The upper part of the chimney-piece is taken from a window of an ancient farm-house, formerly Bradfield-hall, belonging to lord Grimston in Essex; the lower part from a chimney at Hurst Monceaux in Suffex: it is adorned with the arms of Talbot, Bridges, Sackville, and Walpole, the principal persons who have inhabited Strawberry-hill.

In a niche supported by two columns of oriental alabaster, over the chimney, is a fine ewer of fayence, designed by Julio Romano; and two green glass tumblers, with golden edges; and two round saltcellars of old blue and gold Venetian glass, with flowers.

Over the niche, four chocolate cups of fayence, by Pietro Cortona; and a bronze medallion of Pandolfo Malatesta.

On the sides, George II. and Frederic prince of Wales, in Battersea enamel.

In the chimney, a large jar of old blue and white china; and two tiles from Bysham-abbey.

On the shelves and floor is a collection of porcelaine, earthenware, glass, and enamel on copper, of various ages and countries, as follow:

Two dozen plates of Venetian glass; each plate has a different view of Venice, drawn in red.

A japanned tray with a vase for cream, and eight chocolate-cups and saucers with landscapes in brown, of the same ware.

Two bowls of Worcester porcelaine, the pattern from old china.

Two mustard-pots and plates, of Seve china ; given by lord Hertford.

Five trays, in shapes of fans, of old Japan china.

An old blue and white plate with a rib in the middle.

A coloured handle cup, faucer and square plate, à la Grecque, of Seve china.

Two old blue and white plates, artichoke pattern.

Thirteen ditto, with peacock feathers.

Sixteen coloured old Japan plates.

Four ditto, blue and white, with figures.

Three ditto, with figures.

Twelve ditto, of coloured Japan china.

Four ditto, with birds.

Four water-plates with figures, of new china.

Twelve plates of Chelsea china, with small coloured birds.

Three dishes scolloped and ribbed, with coloured flowers.

Two large coloured dishes of the fine old thick Japan china.

A large deep dish of Roman earth, with stories from Ovid's Metamorphosis.

An earthen-ware dish, with the heads of Charles II. and queen Catherine in blue and white ; a present from Mr. Ibbot.

An old blue and white dish, with landscapes.

Ditto, larger, with figures.

Two dishes of very old French earthen-ware, with the arms of France.

Two small dishes of fayence, with grotesques, and the arms of a bishop Contarini.

An

An octagon coloured plate of Saxon china, old pattern.

An octagon square plate, with a cock and hen.

A dish and twelve plates enamelled on copper.

Two round plates of Japan.

Thirteen old white chocolate cups and tea-cups, with embossed flowers.

A tea-pot, milk-pot, five coffee-cups, five tea-cups, and ten saucers, of white quilted china of St. Cloud.

A tea-pot and milk-pot, six cups and saucers, of modern china, with grey landscapes.

Five white cups and saucers with gold borders.

Two coloured candle-cups.

An earthen-ware tea-pot, with the head of lord Chatham.

A small tea-canister of Seve china, blue and gold, with figures on white.

A pot pourri of Saxon china, with coloured flowers embossed.

An old white china cup, with cupids painted in Europe.

A cup with a bullfinch, of modern china.

Thirteen small baskets of Saxon china for sugar-plums, different patterns.

An urn and stand of kennel coal, a present from sir William Meredith.

Six coloured water-cups and plates of Chelsea china.

A blue and white candle-cup.

Two ditto, coloured.

An old blue and white honeycomb tea-pot.

Two Roman lacrymatories of glass, two of earth, and two water-glasses. M.

An ewer enamelled with bacchanals on copper.

Two

Two coffee-cups and saucers of white and gold Bohemian glass.

A cup of Mr. Place's china. *Vide Walpole's Catalogue of English Engravers.*

A blue and white saucer, with a landscape, of fine Nankin china.

A jar, with red and white landscapes and blue and gold borders, of Chelsea china.

Two coloured Saxon trays, with squirrels.

A scalloped saucer of Saxon china, the second sort, very rare : in it lies a medal of Louis quinze in Seve china.

A hand-candlestick of coloured Seve china.

A blue and gold sugar-dish of old Venetian glass, cover and plate, with a silver gilt spoon.

An old blue and white saucer in the shape of a star.

Two trays, ditto.

An ivory drinking-horn, with the arms of the earls of Exeter ; ancient.

An old earthen mug of Arabian ware.

Two vases with handles, of red Portuguese earth.

Two plates like shaving-basons, of the same.

An earthen bottle ; painted on it, *Sack*, 1647 : it was thus sold by apothecaries. From the collection of Mrs. Kennon, the virtuosa midwife.

A blue and white eggshell cup.

Michael Angelo's Bacchus, made in the china of the comte de Lauragais ; from the collection of the comte de Caylus.

Two Roman glasses, like water-glasses ; two lacrymatories, ditto ; and two of earth. M.

Bust of Voltaire, in biscuit of Nancy.

Two blue and gold cups for eggs, of Seve china.

Seven old coloured octagon cups and faucers.

A tea-pot and bafon, fix handle cups and faucers, with battles in black, of Vienna china; a present to Catherine lady Walpole from count Dehn, envoy from the duke of Wolfenbuttle.

A square brown china cup to meafure tea.

An old white china tea-pot with birds and flowers finely painted in Europe.

A bagpiping boy and a dancing girl, of Seve biscuit.

Six fine old cups, white within; without, japanned black and mother of pearl: very rare.

An ewer enamelled on copper, with naked horfemen fighting.

A blue and gold coffee-cup and faucer, with birds on white cartouches, of Seve china.

A cup and faucer, all blue and gold, of ditto.

An old glafs tankard, with a battle of Turks and Chrifians in black, finely drawn.

Ditto of old Venetian glafs ftriped with white, mounted in filver gilt: on the lid, arms of Parr enamelled.

Six handle cups and faucers with green landfapes on white, of Chelsea china.

An urn and cover of red Portuguefe earth.

Two large coloured faucers with figures.

Two fmall ditto bafons with flowers.

Two large coloured bafons.

Two white faltcellars with crawfish in relief, of Chelsea china.

A fine fquare plate, à la Grecque, of Seve china.

Two old blue and white trays.

Two Saxon coloured faucers, cinquefoil.

Two green and gold salts, with flowers on white, of Seve china.

Two white Chelsea salts on feet.

Two small blue and white basons.

A boy supporting a shell, finely modelled in red earth; the first sort of Saxon china before it was glazed or painted, and which was only given as presents by the elector: extremely rare.

Three pieces of rocks, made of rice; given by Mr. Raftor, Mrs. Clive's brother.

Two Chinese basons enamelled with coloured flowers on copper.

A red cup and faucer, glazed; the second sort of Saxon china: rare.

Two blue and gold handle cups and faucers, with birds on white cartouches, of Seve china.

One ditto, green.

One ditto, blue and gold in zigzags, and garlands on white; very beautiful.

Two white barrels with vines and grapes, of Chelsea china.

Two small basons with coloured flowers, of the best modern china.

A very fine standing cup and cover, enamelled on copper with the story of Sampson, from the designs of Parmegiano.

A small dejeuner of blue and gold Seve china; very pretty.

A handle cup, faucer, and square plate, of blue and gold Seve china, with sea-pieces admirably copied from Vernet's pictures.

Ditto of blue, green, and gold, with flowers on white.

Two porringers of Portuguese earth.

An octagon saltcellar enamelled on copper, droll figures on the sides with
old

old French verses; at top, a head, *Je suis Paris*; at bottom, another, *La belle Helene*.

A copper tray, scolloped and enamelled with faint John and flowers; a present from Mr. G. Montagu.

A very large glass urn, damaged, found near London; a present from Dr. Ch. Lyttelton bishop of Carlisle.

Six coloured handle cups and saucers, a tea-pot and sugar-dish, in shapes of leaves, of Chantilli china.

Four small blue and white eggshell cups.

The present queen of France, a large medallion of Seve biscuit; a present from the duchess dowager d'Aiguillon in 1771.

Two handle cups and saucers, different patterns à la Grecque, of Seve china.

Two butter-pots and plates of blue and white Delft ware; presents from lady Ailesbury.

A red cup and saucer, clouded.

A small square brown tea-pot.

A jug of old clouded glass, and a bottle of the same.

Two Saxon tankards, one with Chinese figures, the other with European. These tankards are extremely remarkable. Sir Robert Walpole drank ale; the duchess of Kendal, mistress of king George the first, gave him the former. A dozen or more years afterwards, the countess of Yarmouth, mistress of king George the second, without having seen the other, gave him the second; and they match exactly in form and size.

Two dessert-dishes of coloured Japan china.

A scolloped sugar-dish of old china, white without, striped with colours within: rare.

A basin and plate of scolloped Saxon china.

A plate with small flowers, ditto.

G g g 2

A monteith

A monteith of coloured Seve china: beautiful.

Two old white china candlesticks, mounted in silver.

A large scolloped and coloured bowl of Japan china.

A pale green and white flat bason; very old.

Two green jars.

A mug of earthen ware, with Arabic characters.

A sugar-dish, cover and plate, of Japan china.

A green ewer with a purple handle.

An Etruscan cup with two handles, and an owl on it.

Two very small brown tea-pots.

Medallion of Henry quatre, in Seve biscuit.

Four blue and white chocolate cups, and four saucers.

A triangular saltcellar of fayence, with fine figures on terms.

An old Venetian glass cup and saucer, with gold flowers.

A cup of Matlock spar, on a foot.

An urn, ditto.

Four dessert-plates of fayence, with figures and boys round the borders; by Pietro Cortona: very fine. A fifth ditto, with goats; a present from lady Diana Beauclerc.

Two light purple handle cups and saucers with landscapes, of Seve china.

A larger cup and saucer, à la Grecque, ditto.

A scolloped japan tray.

A fine glass urn with golden boys; Roman: described in doctor Middleton's Antiquities.

A tall blue and white tea-pot with flat sides.

A round brown tea-pot, quite flat.

A fine old blue and white box and cover, a present from lady Ailesbury.

A vase with two handles, of Portuguese earth.

A cup, ditto, with fantastic forms within it: given by lady Mary Churchill.

A green and white mug and saucer, with figures on white, of Seve china.

Ditto with rustic implements; very genteel.

A white old triangular piece of china and cover, for eggs.

An old white beaker.

Two large blue and white tea-pots.

Twelve old blue and white dessert-plates with figures.

A small dish of Chelsea china in a dessert pattern.

A blue and white beaker with a Chinese procession.

Two blue and white soup-dishes with figures.

Ten dishes of old Japan ware.

An ancient tall drinking-glass, with arms and devices; a present from Sir John Hawkins.

Two large blue and white beakers.

Two ditto, of different patterns: a companion to one of them is in the great bedchamber.

A blue and white dish of Chelsea china.

A Turkish earthen bottle, with leaves cast in relief on it.

Two blue and white jars.

Two green, blue, and white beakers.

Two blue and white beakers.

A large